(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Opinion of expert bodies has been sought for as per prescribed procedure.

Declartion of Giri Bar as Tribal Area in Himachal Pradesh

907. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested to declare Trans Giri Areas commonly known as Giri Bar as tribal area in district Sirmour (H.P.) on the lines of adjoining areas of UP already declared as tribal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter in the context of adoption of a resolution by State Assembly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has requested to declare Trans Giri Area as tribal area in district Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh).

(c) and (d) The Proposal of the State Government was examined and it is found that the Scheduled Tribe population in the Trans Giri Area is only 0.12% of the total population in that area. Hence, the Area cannot be declared as tribal area.

Exploitation of Paharia Tribes of Sambhal Pargana

†908. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to starvation and exploitation the people of "Paharia' tribes of Sambhal Pargana are on the verge of extenction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these people have formed any army to restore and safeguard their rights; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if-so, the action being taken by Government to give these people their due rights?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Welfare Programmes for SCs/STs

909. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the lacunae in the implementation of programmes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to monitor the welfare programmes of the SCs/STs and provide the benefit to them;

(c) the steps taken to monitor the proper utilization of the funds under the programmes in every State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (d) Schemes and programmes for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are reviewed on an on-going basis for removal of any bottlenecks and deficiencies that may be noticed during the course of their implementation. In order to ensure proper and timely implementation of the schemes and programmes and the intended benefits reach the target groups, an effective system of monitoring has been put in place, as indicated below:—

(i) Release of funds to States/UTs. is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received.

(ii) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past releases before fresh releases are made.

(iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs. showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data.

(iv) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of implementation of schemes.

(v) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes.